

## § 1.160

## 7 CFR Subtitle A (1-1-01 Edition)

(e) To the extent consistent with the interests of justice and the policy of the underlying statute, a violation of this section shall be sufficient grounds for a decision adverse to the party who knowingly commits a violation of this section or who knowingly causes such a violation to occur.

(f) For purposes of this section *ex parte communication* means an oral or written communication not on the public record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all parties is not given, but it shall not include requests for status reports on any matter or the proceeding.

### Subpart I—Rules of Practice Governing Cease and Desist Proceedings Under Section 2 of the Capper-Volstead Act

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 291, 292; 7 CFR 2.35, 2.41.

SOURCE: 45 FR 6587, Jan. 29, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 1.160 Scope and applicability of rules in this part.

The rules of practice in this part shall be applicable to cease and desist proceedings, initiated upon complaint by the Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to section 2 of the Capper-Volstead Act.

#### § 1.161 Definitions.

As used in this part, words in the single form shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may require. The following terms shall be construed, respectively, to mean:

*Act* means the Capper-Volstead Act, approved February 18, 1922, 42 Stat. 388, 7 U.S.C. 291, 292.

*Association* means a cooperative association, a federation of cooperatives, or other association of agricultural producers, as defined in section 1 of the Act.

*Complainant* or *Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, or any officer(s) or employee(s) to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his or her stead.

*Complaint* means a formal complaint instituted by the Secretary of Agriculture requiring respondent to show cause why an order should not be made directing it to cease and desist from acts of monopolization or restraint of trade, which result in undue price enhancement.

*Decision* means: (1) the Judge's decision, and includes (i) findings and conclusions and the reasons or basis therefor on all material issues of fact, law, or discretion, (ii) order, and (iii) rulings on proposed findings, conclusions and order submitted by the parties, and (2) the decision and order by the Judicial Officer upon an appeal of the Judge's decision.

*Hearing* means that part of the proceeding which involves the submission of evidence before the Judge for the record in the proceeding.

*Hearing Clerk* means the Hearing Clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

*Judge* means any Administrative Law Judge appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3105 (the Administrative Procedure Act) and assigned to the proceeding involved.

*Judicial Officer* means an official of the United States Department of Agriculture delegated authority by the Secretary, pursuant to the Act of April 4, 1940 (7 U.S.C. 450c-450g) and Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 (5 U.S.C. App. (1988)), to perform the function involved (§2.35(a) of this chapter), or the Secretary if he or she exercises the authority so delegated.

*Respondent* means the cooperative associations, or association, against whom a complaint has been issued.

[45 FR 6587, Jan. 29, 1980, as amended at 60 FR 8457, Feb. 14, 1995]

#### § 1.162 Institution of proceedings.

(a) *Filing of information.* Any person having information that any agricultural association, as defined in the Capper-Volstead Act, is engaged in any practice which monopolizes or restrains trade in interstate or foreign commerce to such an extent that the price of any agricultural product is unduly enhanced by reason thereof, may submit such information to the Secretary. Such information shall be in writing and shall contain a complete